An observation by the President.

Mr. President.—My attention has been drawn to the leading article in the issue of the Keralan dated the 26th March. This leading article is a criticism on the ruling given by me as President on the Adjournment Motion which the Hon'ble Member Mr. T. K. Nayar moved under Standing Order 26. Hon'ble Members know perfectly well what the nature of that Adjournment Motion was and how it differs from the ordinary Adjournment Motion to discuss a matter of urgent public importance. The object of the Hon'ble Member's motion was not to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, but simply to suspend the business of the House that day and yet, in spite of that, these sentences occur in the leading article of this paper: "Subsequently to avoid the criticisms of the representatives of the people the Adjournment Motion was ruled out accordingly. This action of Sir Shanmukham does not reconcile with his earlier utterances. The readers would remember that he has expressed on several occasions that he is accustomed to adverse criticisms and that he welcomes them. He is now going out of his way to avoid it." I have come across, during the last few months, many instances of newspaper criticisms based upon maliciously concocted falsehoods. But this one surpasses every one of the criticisms which I have met so far, and I must give the severest warning to this newspaper that both in my capacity as the President of this House and in my capacity as the Head of the Administration, I will take the most stringent measures, if this sort of articles is repeated. In ordinary cases, if any sense of gentlemanliness prevails on the part of a newspaper, when a gross falsehood of this nature is brought to its notice, it is its duty to apologise and withdraw. But I am not sure what this paper will do. That is not my look-out. It is my duty as President of the House to point out to the Hon'ble Members that my ruling as President of the House has been misinterpreted in the most malicious manner.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Our walk out was also misinterpreted. It was not as a protest but with due respect to the ruling.

Mr. President.—One certainly expects that a newspaper of that standing will not write leading articles without verifying its correctness.

The Cochin Castes and Religious Disabilities Removal Bill.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Sir, I beg to introduce the Cochin Castes and Religious Disabilities Removal Bill.

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